

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00660 280703Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSM-03 ACDA-07 MCT-01
/081 W

-----281122Z 082152 /17

R 271451Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4618
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE AGREES ON TERRITORIAL PLANK

REF: TEL AVIV 0523

1. THE LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE DRAFTING THE PLATFORM
TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PARTY'S CONVENTION NEXT MONTH
HAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED ON WORDING FOR THE PLANK ON
NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS AND ON BORDERS.
THE AGREED LANGUAGE STATES: "ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE ITS
POLITICAL EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH
EGYPT, JORDAN AND SYRIA ON THE BASIS OF DEFENSIBLE
BORDERS BUT BE READY FOR A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE
WITH EACH OF THEM AND FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH
LEBANON ALONG THE EXISTING FRONTIER." MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT REFERENCE TO
JORDAN IN ISRAEL'S "READINESS FOR A TERRITORIAL
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00660 280703Z

COMPROMISE" IN THE PROPOSED PLANK RULES OUT
NEGOTIATING WITH THE PLO OR AGREEING TO A PALES-
TINIAN STATE WEST OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

2. THE PARAGRAPH IS AK CONSENSUS REFLECTING VIR-
TUALLY THE WHOLE PARTY LEADERSHIP. (ONE PROMINENT
EXCEPTION IS MOSHE DAYAN, WHO OPPOSES ANY WITH-

DRAWAL IN THE WEST BANK). IT IS AS NOTEWORTHY FOR WHAT IT OMITS AS FOR WHAT IT CONTAINS. (IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL PLANKS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES). THE COMMITTEE DID NOT INCLUDE A PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY LABOR MK'S YITZHAK NAVON AND MOSHE CARMEL THAT ADVOCATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY PALESTINIAN GROUP WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND RENOUNCE TERROR. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT ALSO MADE NO REFERENCE TO A CONCEPT SUPPORTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER PERES: A FUNCTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE WEST BANK INVOLVING MORE LOCAL AUTONOMY BUT CONTINUED ISRAEL MILITARY PRESENCE.

3. THE PLANK ALSO DOES NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A REFERENDUM IN THE FORM OF ANOTHER KNESSET ELECTION WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE RATIFICATION OF ANY WEST BANK RETROCESSION. HOWEVER, THIS ISSUE MAY WELL BE A CONTENTIOUS ITEM AT THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE REQUIREMENT OF AN ELECTION WAS NOT PART OF LABOR'S 1973 FOURTEEN-POINT PLATFORM, BUT RATHER WAS PART OF THE COALITION AGREEMENT IN 1974 AND A COMMITMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN WHEN THE NRP JOINED HIS CABINET.

4. THE NEW LANGUAGE GOES A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE IN ACCOMMODATING MAPAM'S INSISTENCE THAT THE PLATFORM BE EXPLICIT IN OFFERING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON ALL FRONTS. MAPAM WOULD NOT LIMIT THE CONCESSIONS TO A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, THE USE OF THE TERM "PEACE AGREEMENT" IN CONNECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 00660 280703Z

WITH "A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE" SEEMS TO SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THOSE OPPOSED TO WITHDRAWAL FOR LESS THAN A FINAL PEACE. THIS CERTAINLY IS THE FEELING OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ISRAEL GALILI, WHO RECENTLY STATED THAT A DECISIVE MAJORITY IN THE LABOR PARTY FAVORS TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN JORDAN AND SAMARIA FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT BUT NOT AS PART OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. NONETHELESS, MAPAM LEADERS SEEM TO BE PLEASED BY THE PLANK THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE. MAPAM'S SECRETARY GENERAL MEIR TALMI WAS QUOTED AS BEING "SATISFIED" WITH THE LANGUAGE. WE SHOULD KNOW AFTER MAPAM'S CONVENTION ON JANUARY 30 WHETHER HE SPOKE FOR THE WHOLE PARTY. DUNNIGAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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